[26th September 1955

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : No, Sir.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் முன்பு ஒரு தடவை பதில் சொல்லும்போது, "இது விஷயம் பரிசீலனையில் இருக்கிறது. அதற்கு நிபுணர்கள் அனுப்பப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள்" என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால். இப்பொழுது இல்லையென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இனிமேலாவது அதைப் பரிசீலனை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் முன்வருவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGHA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Until we get the information from the Chief Engineer after investigation, nothing could be done.

Liquor permits

* 2498 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many officers working in the Government Secretariat have been given permits for liquor;

(*b*) the grounds on which the permits have been issued to them; and

(*c*) whether any condition is attached to the grant of such permits to the effect that such officers should not be drunk during office hours?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) Two officers.

(*b*) On medical grounds.

(*c*) No, Sir.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : அந்த இரண்டு அதிகாரிகள் யார் யார் ? அவர்கள் வேலை நேரத்தில்கூட காரியாலயத்திற்கு வரும்போது குடித்துவிட்டு வரலாமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன். ஸ்ரீ டி. எம். எஸ். மணி என்ற ஒரு அதிகாரிக்கு பர்மிட் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்களா ? அவர் ட்யூடி நேரத்தில் குடித்துவிட்டு இருப்பது வாஸ்தவமா ?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : அதிகாரிகளின் பெயர் இங்கு இல்லை. தனிக் கேள்வி கேட்டால் சொல்கிறேன். யாரும் குடித்து விட்டு வேலை செய்வது கிடையாது.

SRI K. KAMARAJ : தனிக் கேள்வி எதற்கு ? அதிகாரிகள் அப்படி ஒருவரும் குடித்துவிட்டு வருவது இல்லை.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : The Hon. the Chief Minister has made some statement. It was not audible. As it is a very important statement, I hope . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The point is this. The Hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition made an insinuation in his question that some official was attending office drunk. That is quite impossible because nobody can attend office in a drunken state. I wish he is able to make the statement outside the floor of the Assembly so that the officer concerned can take appropriate action. But the Deputy Leader of the Opposition cannot take advantage of the privilege he enjoys on the floor of the Assembly and make insinuation against individual officials.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, liquor permits are granted on grounds of health. But permits are not given to poor people who are really deserving such permits. Permits are now granted only to persons belonging to higher income groups. Would the Government, therefore, consider the question of giving permits to lower income groups in really deserving cases or if necessary would the Government abolish once for all the condition of granting permits based on income so that all people, both rich and poor, are placed on the same level in the matter of getting permits?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : There is a danger of lower income groups spending on liquor more than they should or to sell their supplies in the black-market. That is why no permit is granted to those with a monthly income of Rs. 500 and less except in special circumstances.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : The Hon. Minister was kind enough to defend the officials. May I know the reason why the Government have not made it a condition that the officers who have liquor permits should not use liquor while attending office?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : No rule is necessary. No officer is expected to come to office in a drunken state and if such a thing has happened we are prepared to take action. But there is no use in making such statements on the floor of the House unless the hon. Member is prepared to prove them.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : I should like to know whether drinking by the permit-holders, whether in office or outside office, is prohibited? I thought drunkenness was prohibited but not drinking.

* 2499 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of officers of the Southern Railway in the Golden Rock Workshops, Tiruchirappalli, who have been given permits for liquor; and

(*b*) whether the permits have been renewed for the current year?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) None of the officers referred to in the question has been granted a liquor permit.